

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1749 - HB 1649

March 9, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Defines “building code,” “place of worship,” and “water supply.” Specifies that nothing shall require a fire protection sprinkler system in a single-story building that meets the following requirements:

- Is a place of worship;
- Has a capacity of no more than 400 persons;
- Does not have a water supply located on the property;
- Has a minimum of 2 exits, plus 1 additional exit for every 2,500 square feet or portion thereof over 4,500 square feet;
- Has a fire alarm system; and
- Has fixed seating for at least 250 persons.

Applies to any place of worship built on or after July 1, 2012.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Currently, the State Fire Marshall adopts statewide minimum building standards for commercial, residential and other structures.
- This will have no significant fiscal impact on state government.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

Other Fiscal Impact - Due to a number of unknown factors, the indirect impact to construction businesses, which may receive additional business from religious entities experiencing fire loss damage, is unknown.

Assumptions:

- According to fire reports collected by the State Fire Marshall, between 2008 through 2012, churches in unincorporated areas of Tennessee had 58 fires.
- The estimated loss was \$4,978,000, at an average loss of \$85,828 (\$4,978,000 / 58 fires).

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- According to the State Fire Marshall, churches that had a fire sprinkler system experienced an 88 percent decrease in loss compared to those without a fire sprinkler system.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb